SHIP

Mrs Lucretia P. Morton

Care of the
Rev. Daniel P. Morton

Shoreham
Vermont

Rio May 28th 1820.

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Archipelago Scio May. 28. 1820.

I think often, this morning, of my dearest, and only surviving sister Morton. Very probably, this is a time of trial, of danger, & of great solicitude; &, it may be, that a holy Providence will remove her from the world. How can I be indifferent? I will not cease to implore for her divine consolations, & to commend her again & again, to the compassion of him who knoweth our infirmities, & remembereth that we are dust. And while I wait, in painful suspense, to hear of her beloved family, it shall be the imployment of every day to prepare my mind for an entire resignation to the will of God.

omit this letter — My dear Sister, we should not complain that we are to be so far separated while we tabernacle in the flesh. The reasons for this may now be concealed in thick darkness, "yet God is his own Interpreter, & he can make it plain". My mind, you well know, is never more at rest than in the society of Friends; & I sometimes am astonished at my own resolution to forsake those whom I so tenderly loved. — I cannot myself determine the design of this — Every thing before me is darkness except the promise

Lo I am with you alway even to the end of the world."
— I say all is darkness — not that any thing new has occured to obscure our prospects — it was darkness when I first engaged to enter into this field — it was darkness when I embarked from America, & it is still darkness — How long the night will continue, or whether I shall ever see the day dawning is known only to Him who doeth all his pleasure.

My situation upon this island is quite peculiar. I know of no person, (Br. Fisk excepted) in this city, & of but one person within sixty miles of me who speaks the English Language. There is no preaching in any language which we can hear upon the sabbath — we enjoy no privileges of religious conversation, & friendly admonition. We are literally strangers in a strange land —

Do you inquire respecting my feelings in this retired situation? I can say, thus far the Lord hath comforted me — I anticipated all this many years before; yea, I contemplated far greater afflictions & deprivations. It is true that a missionary life is a life of self denial, (none but missionaries understand this) yet it has many peculiar and important advantages — Some of these advantages I have, in some degree, realised — such as retirement from the bustle & confusion of the world, and

a constant view of death as a near event.
Since I left America, I have been favored with
many precious seasons of retirement, & of self-exam-
ination. I have had occasion to think of death
& of a future state, & God in his great mercy
hath given me some desires to depart, & be with
Christ— Even if an early death should remove
me from the field of labor, I could not regret this
undertaking. The tendency of all these deprivations
will be, if sanctified, to unite the soul to its
final rest. It gives me joy to think,
in a very short time, I may be permitted
to sit down in the Paradise of God—
in company with my Br. & Sister Morton,
my beloved Parents, & numerous Christian friends.
Now my Sister I must give you
the parting hand— may your soul, & the souls
of your dear little ones be bound up in the bundle
of life— The Lord bless thee, & keep thee— the Lord
lift up his countenance upon thee, & give thee
peace. With great affection
June 6 1820 Your absent Brother Lewis

~~My dear Brother Morton, I write to the above without~~
~~hesitating an opportunity to send it like~~ Did, But yesterday
the arrival of an Amer. Vessel at Smyrna was announced— & I have
not time to write on this letter, for the packet must
be sent to Smyrna in the morning— give my Brother
will excuse this— My health is pretty good. The heat
of the climate approaches me. Brother stands might

to write after the above
letter by Lt. Coats Boston
to Lt. Hooker Md.

I need not request
the request, that my
prayers may be made
for me — Dear Jane
I pray to do much
for you & for your
family & people as
since I left America
—

Love to Wd Hunt & family
to Wd F. Mr Chipman
& family — Mr Hunt & family
Mr & Mrs &c &c —

Do write often — send
letters by Lor. Carts Boston
or to Dr Hoskins Md.

a day between 80° & 90°. Ofer one refreshing night-
But no— all is well— The college in Ohio is large
& celebrated— a number of large stone buildings—
— a large library— a President whose salary is
about 800 dollars— number of Professors— 500 student-
or more— from different parts of the country— lectures
are delivered on Chemistry almost every day— Ours

Instructor is the President of the College. He is very
faithful to us, & pursues no time to stay - However
if the fleet contenders the American clap may rebel - Howard
Stay never was in a more enviable situation as to duty. We
hope the God designs good to our mission by thus forcing us -
but it is not in man to direct his steps.